

**Casper Alcova Irrigation District
Regular Board Meeting
August 10, 2023**

The Casper Alcova Irrigation District (CAID) board meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Ron Richner. Those in attendance were commissioners Ric Herman (Vice-Chairman), Brad Olson (Secretary-Treasurer), Len Camp, and Dan Robinett. Also present were Melanie Peterson (appointed Secretary-Treasurer), Joan McGraw (District Manager), and Tony Jensen (Field Manager). Members of the public attending, please see attached sign-in sheet.

Melanie presented to the commissioners her letter of resignation from her appointment as secretary-treasurer for the commissioners and a request to continue work on a long-term budget once the Level I Study was completed. Dan moved to accept Melanie's resignation and have her continue with the financials. There was a brief discussion regarding her resignation, the Level I Study, and no need for long-term assistance. Dan amended his motion to accept Melanie's resignation. Ric 2nd. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

The commissioners reviewed the minutes from the July 27, 2023, board meeting. Ric moved to approve the minutes as presented with corrections as noted. Len 2nd. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

Joan was unable to present the August financial report to the commissioners due to the lack of time since her start date and the time it has taken to review the financials. Ric moved to table the August financial report until the September meeting. Len 2nd. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

Joan presented the August voucher in a new format. After reviewing the voucher Ric moved to approve the August voucher as presented. Len 2nd. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

Jason Gutierrez informed the commissioners that the committee is currently working on the bylaws. Jason asked about the April through July minutes not currently posted on the website. Melanie informed him they were delayed due to corrections but were sent to CAID today. Joan will send the minutes to Jason in the morning. There was further discussion regarding redacted minutes. It was determined that legal counsel redacted them.

Joan gave her District Manager report. She is in the process of getting her computer system setup, learning the Storm program, and gaining an understanding of the operational management of CAID. Joan gave a project/grants update. There are several grants due the first of September that Joan will be applying for.

Tony gave his Field Manager report. The leaks on the 102 lateral are fixed. There is a new leak in the pipeline past the box. Tony is assessing. The 218-271 pipeline was cleaned out last week. Weeds on 147 and 210 are blowing into the ditch making it challenging. The 256-830 ditch is plugged. Weeds and willows are stuck and causing flooding on the Ander's property causing the septic system to overflow. Their system was pumped out yesterday. The ditch is full of willows and weeds creating issues with getting equipment in there to remove them.

The District Reports are as follows:

District 1: Ron did not have anything to report.

District 2: Len has been in touch with Doug Moore regarding the 102-pipeline breaking down below the box. Tony confirmed the status.

District 3: Brad informed all is good. The automation has been corrected and is working.

District 4: Dan toured the Rodgers Ranch and identified issues needing to be fixed. Ric asked if there was a work request form filled out. The issues identified include the following. The main canal is cutting away on the sides. The drain ditch and main ditch bank need to be fixed. The ditch has stabilized since fabric was installed. Tony informed the dyke has washed out above the canal. With all the rain lately, the water has cut a channel into the canal. Further discussion regarding the water draining into the under drain. With the amount of water, it will probably continue to wash.

District 5: Ric did not have anything to report.

Old Business:

The board reviewed the Level 1 Study progress report that was provided by WWC Engineering. The progress report included scoping and progress meetings, information collection and review, review of the water rights, and the upcoming schedule for a GIS centric meeting.

New Business:

The Platte Valley bank account access was reviewed. Ric moved to add Joan as an authorized user to all accounts, bill pay, and reporting options. Len 2nd. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

There was a discussion to determine if there was a need to add new meters and the importance of keeping the meters on the main ditch. Currently, the landowner purchases the meters and CAID does the maintenance. The question was asked of the necessity to monitor 3-acre feet and if the users want to continue to track it. There are issues with the system being installed correctly. Further discussion regarding the cost of the meters, and if removing the meters is a step backwards.

Tony suggested switching back to 24-hour notice for users to place water orders instead of 48-hour notice. The water users would rather have 24 hours. Dan moved to change back to 24-hour notice for water orders. Len 2nd. There was further discussion regarding the effective date for the change. It was determined however long it would take, but no later than August 25. A vote was taken. Motion carried.

Joan informed the board of the importance of having a separation between personal and business emails. There was a brief discussion regarding the need or desire to set up a CAID email address for each board member.

Tony recommended purchasing a woodchipper to get rid of the trees that are being removed. They can't be burned and there is no place to stack them. There was a discussion regarding what to do with the chips, cost of hiring a contractor, the cost of hauling, funding possibilities, and possible negative effects. Input from the public attending informed success with chipping and no issues with thorns and seeds.

There was a discussion regarding issues with weeds within the CAID boundaries and who was responsible for eradicating them: CAID on their right-of-way and landowners on their private property. Dan mentioned landowners approaching him regarding the weed issue in his district area. Jason Guitierrez, Natrona County Weed and Pest (NCWP) board member mentioned training on Russian Olive tree removal. Joan does have a meeting scheduled with Brian Connely of NCWP on August 14, to discuss cooperative efforts and come up with a plan and a memorandum of understanding for future weed eradication.

Public comment brought concerns to the board regarding lining in the canals, situation of roads, pickup truck issues, dump truck sitting full and when and where it will be dumped, excavator not being used since the purchase of the GPS and why was it purchased without an operator. Tony informed the public there was an operator working when the GPS was purchased but had medical issues shortly after purchase and has been unable to work. Field season hit and there hasn't been time for Tony to operate the GPS. The reach and accuracy of the GPS will be helpful in drains and in ditches scooping out willows and other debris. There was further discussion regarding the lack of maintenance help in the field and that one person cannot safely clean screens. CAID has been looking for additional help. There were suggestions on better ways to advertise.

Budget concerns were also brought to the board. The main concern is where the money is being spent. The public was informed that Joan has been hired for financial and record management and will have better reporting soon.

Dave Creager mentioned silt suddenly appearing and the problem keeps washing into the canal. Dave asked if a 3" berm was installed, would it be possible to push the silt through his headgate. Discussion regarding if heavy rains are the issue and when would be the best time of year to fix it. Probably fix it next spring. Tony will help.

The Anders family, an area landowner but not a water user, brought concerns to the board regarding their property flooding and their leach field and septic system overflowing from the 830 ditch on 6 Mile Road. They presented documentation including photos, master plumber recommendations, and receipts from past repairs. The flooding occurs several times a year, every year. When flooding occurs, the family is unable to use their water for necessities such as cooking and bathing. Concerns have been brought to prior board members and past managers without any action taken. They had to redo their septic system in 2017. The board was informed this has been an issue for 17 years. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the responsibility of who should fix it, the problem with willows and Russian Olive trees and the access to remove them, hiring a contractor or NCWP, is it a delivery issue, and would an

additional ditch, berm, or levy help. Tony is aware of the issue had completed some work last fall. He has had their system pumped both times this year when it flooded. He will work on it after field season. The board will go and look at the situation after today's board meeting.

Ric reminded the board of the Four States Irrigation Council summer tour on August 23-24, 2024.

Len moved to adjourn the meeting. Dan 2nd. A vote was taken. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at the Casper Alcova Irrigation District office.

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully recorded by Joan McGraw.

Signature_____

Date_____

Signature_____

Date_____

Signature_____

Date_____

Signature_____

Date_____

Signature_____

Date_____